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THE ל'פנא SHEKEL

HIGHLIGHTS IN THIS ISSUE

Hadrian Statue Found

Numismatic Views of Jerusalem

History of Palestine Tokens

AINA Opens National Offices

Mintage figures: 1974 Trade Coins

The Battle of Acco

Here I Am Medal

Errors and Forgeries



Published by the AMERICAN ISRAEL NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION



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THE SHEKEL is the official publication of the AMERICAN ISRAEL NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION, INC. and will appear quarterly with the purpose of establishing an authoritative source of information and knowledge pertaining to numismatics of Modern and Ancient Israel. THE SHEKEL will bring to all numismatists the most current information available with reference to the foregoing.

THE SHEKEL will exist only for the benefit of its readers. To further that purpose, it will coordinate the activities of all with the hope that there will be a meaningful interchange of information, views and ideas through its pages.

THE SHEKEL will strive to be informative, interesting, educational and entertaining. To that end, it will endeavor to obtain articles and treatises from leading authorities in the United States, Israel and from other countries.

Finally, THE SHEKEL will be of interest not only to advanced collectors and numismatists but also to those just starting out on that delightful path leading to greater understanding and knowledge of Israeli numismatics.



THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Let me be the first to welcome you to the new AINA offices, out of the noise and confusion of midtown Manhattan but conveniently located on every kind of transportation—and in modern facilities on one of New

York's major arteries. You can see the building in the story on our housewarming elsewhere in *The Shekel*—so instead of describing our HQ and the comfortable working arrangements, I'll simply say at this time: "Welcome to your offices." We welcome your good wishes and your visits.

I've just finished unpacking from a momentous trip to California for visits with the numismatic leaders of our INS family of clubs and for the major participation in the success of the ANA Convention in Los Angeles in

(Continued on Page 32)

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AINA MEMBER DISCOVERS REMNANTS OF FULL-LENGTH STATUE OF HADRIAN NEAR A KIBBUTZ IN ISRAEL

WAS USING METAL DETECTOR IN SEARCH OF COINS IN FIELD

Morton Leventhal, Secretary of the INS of New York and a longtime member of AINA, made archaeological history with a major discovery near Beit Shean, 25 miles south of the Sea of Galilee in an area overlooking the Jordan River. Using a metal detector, he discovered a life-sized bronze statue of the Emperor Hadrian, about 18-inches beneath the surface of the earth. The statue was in several pieces. Subsequent exploration by a team from the government department concerned with such findings has located a companion statue of Hadrian's wife.

A Cruel Emperor

Tentatively, the statue was dated between 17 C.E. and 138 C.E., the years of Hadrian's rule of the Roman Empire. Hadrian was a cruel emperor and ruler of ancient Judea. He crushed the Bar Kochba revolt in 135 C.E. and enslaved and persecuted thousands of Jews. It is ironic that one of the two known full-length life-size statues honoring this hated personage should have surfaced in Israel. (The only other known statue of Hadrian was found in Turkey. Other statues of the emperor are believed to have been melted down to make possible statues for later rulers).

The field in which Mr. Leventhal found the statue adjoins Tel Shalem, believed to be the site of one of the string of fortified Roman settlements along the Jordan.



Drawing of only other known full-length statue of Emperor Hadrian—with arm outstretched and in battle-dress, now in British Museum. Bronze statuary survives burial in earth, say experts.

From the remnants which will be easily rejoined to recreate the bronze work one can see the posture: The Emperor in full battle-dress, one arm extended. The perfectly preserved breast-plate is decorated with six war-

riors, fighting one another in three pairs.

Mr. Leventhal is a frequent visitor to Israel. He describes himself as a passionate amateur archaeologist with

He had been exploring the area on a special interest in coin collecting.

Friday, July 25 when the "beep-beep" of his metal detector stopped him. "The only tool I had with me was a Boy Scout knife. I dug down thinking I was probably going to find an old water pipe when I suddenly saw the back of the head. I couldn't believe my eyes," he told *The New York Times*. A detailed account of the discovery was on the front page of *The New York Times* (Tuesday, Aug. 5) along with a photograph of the head of the statue which Mr. Leventhal wrapped in his shirt and carried on his bicycle back to the kibbutz where he reported his find.

Moved Head from Site

The Department of Antiquities begs tourists and others not to disturb

sites of finds and to notify the Department. Mr. Leventhal had removed the head from the earth.

"I had no choice", he said. "A kibbutznik was plowing the field for planting. I was afraid he'd chop it to pieces", he told the *Times* reporter and others.

Statue Taken to Jerusalem

The authorities were asked to leave the statue for the kibbutz museum where Mr. Leventhal's sister lives.

They said there was no chance that the statue wasn't going to Jerusalem. The archaeologist who came up to see it told me that Jews in the second century would have given anything to get their hands on Hadrian's head. Now they finally have it; and they aren't going to let go."

The statue is being reassembled at the Israel Museum.

The story of the find was presented on television in New York City during early August. Mr. Leventhal is a New York City stockbroker who has made frequent and numerous trips to Israel.

BEN-YEHUDA DIE VARIETY FOUND

Pictured below are the two varieties of the 26th Anniversary commemorative coins. It is our belief (Allan Greenberg, Rex, Ph.D. and David Paszament) that the coin on the left was struck from the original dies. Notice the ball at the top of the scroll running into the rim. The lettering at the top of the coin also seems to run into the rim. On the second variety, the lettering and the ball are removed from the edge.

At the time that the coin was released it was announced that there had been a problem with the die and after some 2,000 coins had been struck production was stopped and the die corrected. It is our belief that the coin we call 1st strike was struck from the original dies and the coin we call 2nd strike was struck from the collected dies. We invite comment.

David Paszament and Allan Greenberg





JERUSALEM: A NUMISMATIC TOUR.

NUMISMATIC VIEWS OF JERUSALEM

By Harry Flower

Jerusalem is probably the oldest continuously lived in city in the world. Conquered by David c. 1010 B.C.E., about 3000 year ago, it has constantly been in the hearts and prayers of Jews throughout the centuries. To this day, a Jewish prayer is "If I forget thee, O Jerusalem, let my right hand forget its cunning".

Jerusalem is truly an "International City", "The Sacred City of Mankind" and "The Holy City" of the three great monotheistic faiths of the world. It has been referred to as "The Eternal City of God" and "The Capitol of Mankind". Some have called it "The City of Peace" but this is hardly true

as its turbulent history of wars, sieges and destructions belies this name. Today, Jerusalem is a combination of the most ancient, the most modern, the most interesting and the most historical city in the world.

Throughout the centuries, ancient, medieval and modern coins, medals and tokens have been issued with reference to Jerusalem. This exhibit consists only of coins and medals that present a panoramic scene of "The Religious Capitol of the World".

This article was prepared from the Flower Exhibit at the Greater New York Coin Convention, New York, May 1-4, 1975. — The Editor.

SCROLL OF FIRE MEDAL WITH JERUSALEM PANORAMA

On the obverse of this beautiful medal is reproduced Yigael Tomarkin's heroic statuary group "Scroll of Fire" that is located in the Martyr's Forest in the Judean Hills outside Jerusalem. In English and in Hebrew is the inscription "SCROLL OF FIRE • B'NAI BRITH • ISRAEL / MARTYR'S FOREST JUDEAN HILLS". The reverse of the medal depicts a panorama of the City behind the wall. Curved above in English and Hebrew, "JERUSALEM OF GOLD".

This medal was issued in 1974 by Amonagraph, Ltd., of Tel Aviv and was struck in 59mm bronze and in 35mm silver.





**FRENCH MINT JERUSALEM MEDAL
DEPICTS OLD CITY
FROM MOUNT OF OLIVES**

This high relief medal shows a view of the Old City from Mount of Olives. Above in the sky in small letters "Jerusalem". The reverse pictures the Valley of Jehoshaphat with monuments and tombs. This beautiful work of art was designed by Therese Dufresne and it was produced by the French Mint in 1969 in 81mm bronze.



**THE ISRAEL PEACE MEDAL
SHOWING 16th CENTURY JERUSALEM**

This outstanding medal was issued in 1968 by ISNAMAT, The Israel Numismatic, Antiquities and Arts Co. Ltd. of Jerusalem to symbolize the yearning for peace. The medal was struck in three forms: 1½" platinum, 2¼ and 1½" gold and 2¼ and 1½" silver.

The obverse depicts hands outstretched to "PEACE", this word in the center in English and Hebrew. The symbolic olive branch is at the bottom. The reverse features a 16th Century Map of the Old City. This magnificent reproduction of the walled City as originally engraved by Franz Hogenberg c. 1569. Curved above in Hebrew and below in English: "PRAY FOR THE PEACE OF JERUSALEM", and the source "Psalms 122:6".



**KINGDOM OF JORDAN COIN
PICTURES CITY OF JERUSALEM**

This silver 1 dinar is one of a set of proof coins issued by Jordan in 1969. The entire consists of ¼, ½ and 1 dinar in silver and 2, 5, 10 and 25 dinars in gold. All were struck by Unoaerre (Mint) in Italy. The above is the only one in the series featuring Jerusalem. It is 55mm in diameter, has a reeded edge, weighs 40 grams and was struck in 1000 fine silver.

The obverse of the coin features the likeness of His Majesty, the King Hussein Ben Ta (Hussein I) to the right, surrounded by Arabic inscriptions. The reverse features a city-scene within a 35mm circle, including the word "JERUSALEM" at the bottom. Curved above in English "THE HASHEMITE KINGDOM OF JORDAN".



AUSTRIAN FEDERAL MINT MEDALS WITH JERUSALEM PANORAMA

These medals were struck by the Austrian Mint at Vienna in 1970 as part of the series "History and Politics". They were minted in 50mm silver (900 fine) with plain edge and in 20, 25, 32, 50 and 60mm in gold (22 carat) with reeded edge, all bearing the famous "A" mint mark indicating Austria.

The obverse features the likeness of Moshe Dayan to the right. The reverse shows a beautiful panoramic view of Jerusalem, with the dates 1948, 1956 and 1967, the years of her first three wars with the Arabs. Curved around is the Hebrew inscription below and the Latin above "SI OBLITUS ERO TUI IERUSALEM" (If I forget you O Jerusalem).



ISRAEL 26th ANNIVERSARY MEDAL FEATURES OLD CITY OF JERUSALEM

This beautiful medal was issued in 1974 to commemorate the 26th Anniversary of Israel. It was struck by Amonagraph, Ltd. of Tel Aviv; 10,000 pieces were struck in 59mm bronze and 2,000 in 35mm silver (.999 fine). Each piece is numbered on the edge.

The obverse features a flag composed of Hebrew letters which is completely encircled by a Hebrew and English inscription "26th INDEPENDENCE DAY 1974". The reverse features a beautiful stylized view of the Old City. Above is the inscription "JERUSALEM CITY OF PEACE".



JERUSALEM OF GOLD MEDAL PORTRAYS PANORAMA OF CITY

This beautiful uniface 60mm copper medal was issued in July 1967 by the Elisha Co. of Haifa. It was designed and engraved by Abram Elisha. The central design is a panorama of the Old City with its name "JERUSALEM" above in English and "Jerusalem of Gold" in Hebrew. Surrounding are two complete circles of inscriptions, the outer in English THE LIBERATORS BEFORE BATTLE "TAKE OATH TO US THAT JERUSALEM SHALL NEVER BE RETURNED TO STRANGERS". This is the oath to which the wounded Israeli soldiers put to their commanders never to retreat from the Old City. The medal was released shortly after the beautiful song "Jerusalem of Gold" became nationally popular in Israel.



THE JERUSALEM COIN OF ISRAEL SHOWS PANORAMA OF REUNIFIED JERUSALEM

Silver B.U.

Gold Proof

Silver Proof

This coin was issued by the Bank of Israel as The 20th Independence Day Commemorative Coin of 1968. The obverse bears the nominal value (10 pounds for the silver and 100 pounds for the gold) and features a replica of the Temple entrance as it appeared on an early Bar-Kochba coin. There is also the word "ISRAEL" in English, Hebrew and Arabic, and the date "1968". The reverse presents a panorama of the reunified City of Jerusalem, topped by the Knesset.

The coin was designed by Yaakov Zim of Tel Aviv and was struck by the Swiss Federal Mint at Berne. There were 50,000 issued in BU silver and 20,501 in proof silver (both 37mm & 26 grams) and 12,500 in 800 fine gold (33mm & 25 grams).



THE JERUSALEM — KNESSET STATE MEDAL WITH PANORAMA OF REUNITED CITY

This beautiful official State Medal was issued in 1971 to commemorate a reunited Jerusalem and also The Knesset. Modern Jerusalem, adjacent to the Old City, has been built by its people, in answer to the prayers of 1900 years to be "next year in Jerusalem". The obverse features a stylized design of The Knesset, the name in Hebrew and in English below.

Occupying most of the reverse of the medal, is a panorama of reunited Jerusalem. This stylized view includes outstanding landmarks in a free composition. To the right is the name "JERUSALEM" in Hebrew and in English. The medal was designed by Yaakov Zim of Tel Aviv and was struck by S. Kretschmer and Sons of Jerusalem in 45 and 90mm silver and in 45 and 90mm in bronze.

AINA CONDUCTS MAJOR ACTIVITIES AT ANA - L.A.

Three major activities of AINA were among the broad panorama of numismatic events at the ANA Convention in Los Angeles in August. AINA's quarterly Board of Director meetings voted approval of the plan for two AINA conventions (one for the East Coast; one for the West Coast) to be held at different times of the year. The AIN-sponsored Greater New York Coin Convention will be held in May in New York City on May 6-9. On the West Coast, the AINA-sponsored Greater Los Angeles Coin Convention will be held from Nov. 11 through 14, 1976.

The Saturday evening banquet sponsored by AINA at the ANA Convention had an attendance of over 300. The attendees were welcomed by ANA Convention Chairman, Edward Borogolte. Presentations were made to Mr. Tom Dorsey, editorial director of the *Los Angeles Times Syndicate*; and to Maurice M. (Maury) Gould.

A presentation to the American

Numismatic Association's education efforts was made of three outstanding Israel numismatic audio-visual programs ("*Portrait of Israel through its 5-pound Commemorative Coins*; *Portrait of Israel through its 10-Pound Commemorative Coins*; and *Coin-Medals of Historical Cities in Israel*"). The gift was accepted by Virginia Culver, president of ANA. The slide-lecture program were developed by Ben and Claire Abelson with Mrs. Abelson receiving an award for her untiring efforts on behalf of AINA and Israel numismatics.

The banquet arrangements and coordination was by Dr. Sol Taylor whose cooperation and assistance won special appreciation from Morris Bram, president of AINA.

A third major successful event at the ANA Convention was a workshop held with leaders of AINA and representatives of the Israel Government Coins and Medals Corporation, Yitzhak Avni and Nahum H. Hacohen.



From l. to r.: Morris Bram, president of AINA; Margo Russell, numismatic journalist; Y. Avni, IGCAM; Eva Adams, former Dir. of Mint; and Ed Rochette, ANA executive.



From l. to r.: Dr. Sol Taylor, MC; Lena Bram and Ben Abelson during surprise honoring of Mrs. Bram.



From l. to r.: Seated, Peggy Rochette; standing Nathan Sobel, designer of AINA banner; seated Virginia Culver, president of ANA; and Dr. Sol Taylor, MC of dinner.

MORE CONVENTION PHOTOS FROM MAY



Stanley Yulish and the trophy he has won at the May Convention of AINA where he repeated his 1974 win as Best-of-Show. Mr. Yulish prepared a multi-case exhibit (below).



This was but one case of the HISTORY GHETTO LODZ which provided numismatic evidence and numerous illustrations to tell the tragedy of Man's inhumanity to Man at the infamous and barbaric concentration camp during World War II.



Members of the Board of Directors pose for a 1975 portrait during a break in the convention in May. Board members attended from as far as Illinois, Florida, Michigan and California.



From l. to r.: Phil Sperber of INS of Westchester; Agnes Alones, a winner in the Class 6 Competition; Stanley Yulish, winner of Best-of-Show; and Joaquin Medina, First Place Winner in Class I.

FLASH NEWS FROM ANA CONVENTION:

At a meeting of the Board of Directors of AINA, two national AINA-sponsored conventions were authorized: May in New York and November in Los Angeles. This will be the first year of two conventions in AINA history.

BANK OF ISRAEL FIGURES FOR 1974 (5734) ANNOUNCED

by Samuel Lachman, Haifa, Israel

The Bank of Israel in Jerusalem recently released Mintage figures for the calendar year 1974, according to Samuel Lachman, Haifa, Israel.

Lachman observes that the coins were made in both the Royal Canadian Mint, Ottawa, Canada, and in Jerusalem. Two Hebrew dates appear on coinage of 1974, depending on strikes prior to or after Oct. 1, the beginning of the new year on the Hebrew calendar.

"The quantities in excess of those showing year 5734, Tav Shin Lamed Dalet, bore the date 5735, Tav Shin Lamed He, the current year," Lachman explains.

Lachman notes there are varieties in the date areas of the coins, with one lira pieces with high rim, large dashes one millimeter long, date line $7\frac{3}{4}$ millimeters wide, called Type I, Jerusalem Mint. Type II pieces, Ottawa, have a low rim, date line eight milli-

meters long, small dashes $\frac{3}{4}$ mm. long.

On 10-agorot coins, Type I reverses are characterized as having the date line $6\frac{1}{2}$ mm. long, letters flat, large dashes. On Type II pieces, the date line is $6\frac{3}{4}$ mm. long, letters round, with small dashes.

On Type I of the one agora coins, on the obverse, the last Hebrew letter of Israel (Lamed) is normal, and grains are normal size. On the reverse, the date line is six mm. long, large dashes, rising above the letter. The large frame is $15\frac{1}{2}$ mm. wide, horizontally.

On Type II one agora pieces, on the obverse, the last Hebrew letter of Israel (Lamed) has a small serif at top; grains are smaller. On the reverse, the date line is $5\frac{3}{4}$ mm. long, small dashes ending at the top of the letter. The smaller frame measures 15 mm. wide, Lachman said.

Denomination	Total number of coins struck		at Ottawa
	at Jerusalem	Of these dated 5734	
	1974		1974
1 Agora	11,606,000	8,080,000	34,000,000
5 Agorot	15,350,000	10,470,000	—
10 Agorot	7,575,000	3,880,000	18,160,000
25 Agorot	4,488,000	2,320,000	—
$\frac{1}{2}$ Lira	4,285,015	4,275,015	—
1 Lira	3,087,000	2,287,000	4,000,000

Mintage of coins of Israel for the calendar year 1974 is reflected in the table above, released by the Bank of Israel in an annual report. Coins were struck in Jerusalem and Ottawa, with those pieces struck after Oct. 1 bearing a new Jewish date. Thus, Samuel Lachman, Haifa, Israel, observes, there could be four types of a single denomination, two by date and two by Mint.

**“HERE AM I — SEND ME” (Isaiah)
MEDAL COMMEMORATES ANTI-NAZI
FIGHTERS (1939-1946)**



DESCRIPTION OF THE MEDAL
Obverse: The proverb “If a man means to kill you, strike first” (the Talmud), is inscribed in English around the rim. It appears in Hebrew in the middle top and middle left. Two of the letters have a dagger design. A Star of David with the word “Jude”, depicting the yellow badge worn by Jews under the Nazi’s and other oppressors, appears in the middle right.



Reverse: “Here Am I — Send Me”, a quote from Isaiah, appears in Hebrew and in English in the middle. The flag of Israel is on the top left. Around the rim, the following words are inscribed in both Hebrew and in English “The Yishuv’s Volunteers in the British Forces 1939-1946”.

The medal will be issued in bronze and silver; and made available to collectors in the latter part of 1975.



The President of Israel, Professor Efraim Katzir, is shown receiving the Medal of Volunteers, the official State medal which honors the men and women of pre-State Israel who volunteered for service with the British Forces during World War II in the fight against Nazi oppression.

Presenting the medal from left to right: Major-General (Ret.) Meir Zorea; Lt.-General (Ret.) Haim Laskov; President Katzir; Mr. Yitzhak Avni, Director-General Israel Government Coins and Medals Corporation; Mr. Mordechai Surkis, Chairman of the Board, I.G.C.A.M.C.; Major-General (Ret.) Dan Tulkowsky and Captain (Ret.) Zeev HaYam.

JEWISH NATIONAL FUND ISSUED ONLY 43 MEDALS TO HONOR J. F. K. MEMORIAL INAUGURATION

by Robert Messing



On July 4, 1966, in the presence of U.S. Chief Justice Earl Warren, Israel's Prime Minister Levi Eshkol, and thousands of Americans and Israelis, The *Jewish National Fund* launched the John F. Kennedy Memorial and Peace Forest. This forest located near Jerusalem, where Bar Kochba waged his last gallant battle for Judea's freedom two thousand years ago, is dedicated to peace and the bonds of friendship that link America and Israel.

To commemorate this inauguration, the *Jewish National Fund* issued a medal. The obverse has a high-relief bust of President Kennedy and the dates 1917-1963, the years of his birth and death. Around the circumference are the words "John F. Kennedy Peace Award — Jewish National Fund of America". The sculptor of the medal, "J. Kiselewski" and the date "1964" appear below the bust.

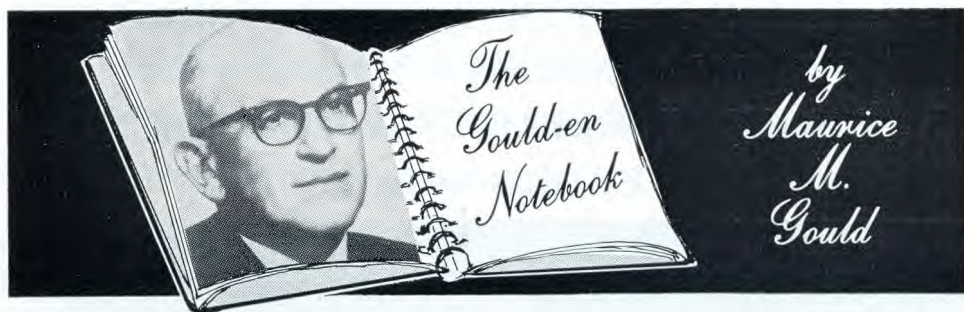
The reverse has the inscription "Presented to," a space for a name and "By the Jewish National Fund of America for exemplary service to peace, democracy and the historic

friendship between the United States and Israel". This inscription is in English and below that in Hebrew. On the rim are the words, "Medallic Art Co. N.Y.", the company that struck the medal.

According to the Medallic Art Company, the mintages of the medal are as follows: 26 Bronze medals; 6 Sterling Silver medals; and 11 14k Gold medals. All medals are 3" in diameter.

The AINA Forest is located below the memorial to President Kennedy. A very moving account of AINA tour members planting trees in the AINA Forest was described in the Summer 1975 issue of *The Shekel*.

Members of AINA are urged to support the AINA Forest program by purchases of trees at \$3.00 per tree for special events which may be commemorated in this permanent and dignified manner. Purchases of trees may be made directly from JNF, 42 East 69 Street, New York, N.Y. 10021. Do not make the check out to AINA or remit to AINA during this AINA-endorsed program. Please mark checks to JNF: "For AINA Forest".



Chaim Weizmann was born in 1874 in White Russia. His love for Judaism and Israel prompted him to work for their cause even during his childhood, when he collected *kopeks* for the early Palestine pioneers, travelling from one tiny Jewish settlement to another. Even then his vision and dreams were formulated and he was further inspired by his older sister who had already gone on to Palestine to help rebuild the homeland.

His father was a small timber merchant and since he could not continue his schooling in Russia, he left to attend a University in Germany and then to Switzerland, finally going on to England. He met and married his wife Vera there. She had a medical degree and was involved in public health. They chose England as their homeland temporarily and this was a wise decision at the time.

Dr. Chaim Weizmann met the editor of the *Manchester Guardian* in England and through his eloquence, converted him to Zionism. He met other important people through this friendship, among them Arthur Balfour, who was to play such a great part in the destiny of the Jews in Palestine.

The Jews had already been offered Uganda as a homeland at the time that Weizmann and Balfour met and the English statesman questioned the zealous Zionist about their refusal of what to him seemed to be a very generous gesture on the part of the English.

Weizmann's humor and quick wit stood him in good stead as he replied, "Would you take even Paris in place of London?" His friend replied, "But we have London," to which the chemist quickly replied, "And we Jews had Jerusalem when London was a marsh."

Balfour was impressed and while he pondered, he asked, "Are there many Jews who feel as you do?" to which Weizmann replied simply, "Millions."

The friendship between the two great men flourished and for ten years Balfour never forgot his friend's eloquent words. The *Balfour Declaration*, which Chaim Weizmann had worked for so long, was the most wonderful thing that happened to the Jews in 1800 years. It stated:

"His Majesty's Government view with favor the establishment in Palestine of a national home for the Jewish people and will use their best endeavors to facilitate the achievement of this object, it being clearly understood that nothing shall be done which may prejudice the civil and religious rights of existing non-Jewish communities in Palestine, or the rights and political status enjoyed by Jews in any other country."

Much joy and celebration greeted this *Balfour Declaration* and Dr. Chaim Weizmann went to liberated Jerusalem, but on his way took an important trip to see the leader of the Arabs, Emil Feisal, from the holy city of Mecca. Lawrence of Arabia had been instrumental in drawing Feisal to the British side of the war, and it was here that the two factions met, the Arabs and the Jews. The journey was extremely difficult across the Sinai desert, and was eventually completed by foot after the car broke down.

Appropriately, only gold coins were struck to commemorate the 10th Anniversary of the death of Chaim Weizmann, Israel's first president. There were 50 and 100 pound denomination coins minted, with the obverse having in the center the 7-branched Menorah, the emblem of the State of Israel, which is between two olive branches.

(Continued on page 32)

The ALEPH BETH Page

...Dedicated to the Beginner

by Edward Janis



Q. What does the obverse side (the one with 5 Lirot) represent on the Negev silver commemorative coins of 1962? W. K., Denver, Colorado

A. The motif is a stylized portion of a manufacturing process. It shows upright girders and pipelines of a chemical plant or refinery.

Q. On page 58 in Kagan's "Israel's Money and Medals," what is meant by "intermittent reading" on the edge device of the 1967 One Lira pieces? R. J., N. Y. C.

A. I think that you have been doing some "intermittent reading" of that page. If you read the fine print, you would have seen "intermittent reeding" explained as the relationship of the point of the numeral 1 with the edge device of the uppermost blank or reeded segment directly over the said numeral. I always thought that collecting these differences as a variety to be sheer nonsense because the collar which contains the edge device of five sections of reeding is no integral part, or related to, the obverse or reverse die. Because of this, the reeding can appear in *any* position in relation to the position of the point of the 1. Arnold Kagan has told me that this proofreader's error will be corrected in the next edition. In the meantime, you are lucky to have a "publisher's error" which is much less valuable than a "mint error."

Q. Do all Israel Government Gold Coins contain the same amount of fine gold? Dr. K. J., Chicago, Ill.

A. Obviously you refer to coins of the same denomination because theoretically a 50 Lirot piece should have half the fine gold of a 100 Lirot gold coin. There are multiplicity of factors

that affect the amount of fine gold in a coin. The first is its fineness in thousandths IN RELATION TO THE ENTIRE WEIGHT OF THE COIN. Thus if a coin is listed as .900 fine, it means that the content of the coin is 900/1000 pure gold. You therefore see that it is possible to have a heavier coin with a smaller fineness (say .800) to have *less* pure gold than a smaller coin with *higher* fineness.

It also follows that the reverse might be true. The *Herzl*, *Weizmann*, *Bank of Israel* and the *Victory* gold pieces were all .916 fine. The *Jerusalem* and *Shalom* were .800 fine. *Let My People Go* and *25th Anniversary* were .900 fine. Without going into the mathematics of the weight of the coins and their denominations, the content in fine gold where 1.00000 equals 1 Troy Ounce as expressed in five digits for the 100 IL gold pieces are as follows: *Weizmann* and the *Victory* .78629; the *Jerusalem* and *Shalom* .64301; the *Freedom* and the *25th Anniversary* .63658. The conclusions here are obvious.

One does not buy Israel gold coins for their bullion value. If the only interest is gold content, one buys South African Krugerrands which contain one troy ounce of pure gold and whose market price fluctuates in accordance with the daily price setting of gold in London. Two weeks ago they were worth \$175. Today (mid-August, 1975) they can be bought for \$167.50. The gold coins of Israel are bought for their numismatic value as evidenced by their small issues; their honoring of special events in History — as *Victory* and the *Freedom of Jerusalem* and, let's face it, for events that require national and international support, viz. *Let My People Go*.

A BRIEF HISTORY OF TOKENS OF PALESTINE AND ISRAEL

by Ed Schuman

Money is the name given to the metallic coins and paper currency usually issued by governmental authority, as the medium of exchange in commerce. It is this money which is the accepted value to pay for merchandise or services. In times of stress, necessity has often dictated the need for *unofficial* money: money issued without governmental authority. It could be money issued by private people, by companies and organizations. It is private money, so to speak.

This money can be in either paper or metal form. In most instances, it is usually produced because of a shortage of official coinage, though it has been made for different reasons. The metallic private money is called *token* (*assimon* in Hebrew). In the early times of the *Mishnah*, the word *Assimon* was given to describe a coin whose design had been worn away through hard use. These coins were used for admission to public baths, etc. The word *Assimon*, is a hybrid from the Hebrew and Greek meaning "without a sign."

Tokens have been used in the Holy Land from the early Crusades right up to the present time. In modern Israel, the bus cooperatives issued their own paper tokens. Dan, the bus company serving the Tel Aviv area, until recently issued a special series of tokens used by employees to purchase coffee and tea in the cafes and buffets in the neighborhood of Dan's central office. Many *Kibbutzim* issued substitute money in paper, not for convenience, but to emphasize the nature of the *Kibbutz* society and to isolate the members from the evils of money, commerce and the capitalistic society.

Tokens for telephones in pay stations have been issued in several shapes and designs; most public phones in Israel do not take currency.

Lod Airport has a special token for admission to the observation deck. The Haifa subway (Carmelit) uses a special token: the Zim Lines, Israel's shipping navigation lines issued plastic tokens to be used by ship personnel in the ships' canteens.

There are the series of paper tokens issued by the ultra-orthodox of the *Neturi Karta* sect that does not recognize the State of Israel because it believes that the State of Israel usurped the role of the *Messiah*. The sect avoids the use of Israel's money and the state's institutions as much as possible.

Many very interesting stories can be told in connection with the many many tokens of the Holy Land. A token collection represents in live form, the economic and social history of a country, its rulers and monetary systems. A half dozen different numismatic items will only scratch the surface of this vast series of tokens in Israel's past and present.

The Turkish period is a most interesting example of tokens and their history. Turkish coinage was hoarded by the citizenry for the silver content as the paper bank notes of Turkey were subject almost to daily depreciation. Coins were hoarded and only limitedly were circulated as a medium of exchange. It was this shortage of coins that caused many Jewish organizations to issue private money. Palestine, even under the early days of the Mandate, did not issue its own

coinage till 1927, 10 years after the Mandate was granted by the League of Nations. During this time, the country did not have a coinage of its own and Egyptian coinage was the circulating medium.

There have been several papers written on the community tokens of the Jewish settlements in Palestine. These tokens were issued for substitute money to replace or supplement the existing official money which was in scarce supply.

In 1882 a wine colony was established in Palestine by Baron Edmond de Rothschild in Zichron Yakov. Three years later, in 1885, the representative of the Baron, a Mr. Yehuda Wormser, decided that in order to overcome the shortage of coins, a series of tokens would be issued to make the colony less dependent on the money changers to whom you had to go in order to make small change. These people charged excessive commissions for this service. The tokens of *Zichron Yakov* were the first truly Jewish coins to be struck since the *Bar-Kochbar* coinage of 1750 years earlier. The tokens were struck in Paris in 1885 and the House of Rothschild backed these with 30,000 gold francs. How many were minted, no one remembers. How many exist today is also a mystery. The series consisted of three denominations (1, $\frac{1}{2}$, $\frac{1}{4}$) and the value was not stated on the tokens out of a concern to avoid conflict with the Turks.



The *Zichron Yakov* coinage became a *defacto* legal tender, not only in the settlement but in the nearby Arab villages and were circulated as well in Haifa and Jaffa. It was accepted by both Arabs and Jews, freely and eagerly.

Mikveh Israel: not very much is known of this coinage. The tokens were issued by the Agricultural School founded in 1879 by Charles Netter on behalf of the *Alliance Israelite Universelle*, an organization dedicated to aid to Jewish People all over the world. These tokens are so closely akin to those of *Zichron Yakov* that the assumption is made that they were issued near the same time. The values have been left off again.



The Turks opposed production of these tokens, realizing that they were the start of a nationalistic trend by the Jewish settlers. All were completely recalled, and circulation ceased shortly after; whether they were redeemed or destroyed is unknown. It is surprising in the span of 80-90 years or three generations how much can be forgotten.

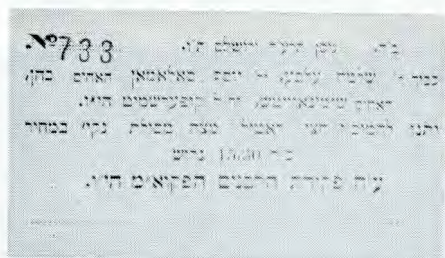


Colonies of German settlers, the Templars, also issued their own coinage in this period but for some reason, these were never hampered with Turkish interference. The Templars operated their own banks in Sarona, and had four values issued in German: 12 items in all. The design in their token was the plow, symbol of the Templars

whose belief was to reestablish a Garden of Eden in the Holy Land. Their efforts and success in this work was the inspiration for the nearby Jewish settlements.

An extremely rare item is the *Matzoh Token*. At the end of the Turkish period in 1915, Dr. Moshe Wallach, the founder of the *Share Zedak* Hospital in Jerusalem issued a special Pass-over token. There was a desperate shortage of flour in Jerusalem at the beginning of World War I and there was not enough flour for the baking of the *Matzoh*. Because Wallach was a German citizen, and Germany was an ally of Turkey, he placed the hospital under the neutral flag of Holland, and of the Amsterdam Committee. This Amsterdam Committee was an organization that had helped the Jewish people since the 17th century in re-establishing Holy Land settlements.

A small shipment of flour was obtained which was distributed to the Jewish bakers. The Doctor had tickets (or tokens) printed:



"In the name of God, Nissan 5675, Jerusalem, may it soon be rebuilt. No. 733./The honored R. Shlomo Elbe, and R. Joseph Salomon, the Brothers Cohen, the Brothers Shimonowitz and R. L. Kupershmids, God be with them. Give the bearer half a Rotel Matzoh of clean flour, at the price of 15.30 Grush per Rotel/On the account and to the order of the Rabbis, the Officials and Commissioners, God be with them".

and distributed to the Jews of Jerusalem who exchanged them for the *Matzoh*. The bakers in turn returned these tokens to the good doctor who redeemed them with funds from the Amsterdam Committee. The redeemed tokens were destroyed. This specimen belongs to Sidney L. Olson, a benefac-

tor and patron of the famed hospital today. It was found in one of the old safes of the hospital which was built in 1902 and was presented to him in 1974 by the hospital in appreciation of his help.



There are a series of tokens issued by religious organizations for charity use. The *Torah Haim Yeshiva*, recently reestablished on the Via Dolorosa in Old Jerusalem, was one of these. A small token was issued which served as a charity token. These were sold, and were later given out to beggars and others asking for charity. The word *Charity* in Hebrew is *TsaDucka*. The four Hebrew letters which are on this token: a *T*, *Dalad*, *Hay* and *Kuf* spell *Charity*. There is a story about the forged tokens of this yeshiva. The one on the left (see illustration) is obviously one of these. The tokens of the Yeshiva were being forged, but suddenly the forgeries ceased. The forger was not afraid of the Turkish authorities. He was afraid of the threats of excommunication by the Rabbis who headed the *Yeshiva*. Legend has it that he threw his tools and remaining stock of the forgeries into the great water cistern of *Meah Shearim*, the religious quarter of Jerusalem, where they presumably still rest today.

The story behind the most circulated Jewish token is really great. Disturbances in Palestine with clashes between Jews and Arabs have been always in fashion. In 1936, Arabs attacked Jews in the various settlements, villages and towns.

The *Hagannah* forces were not organized as a central defence organization. Every village had some branches, leftists, rightists and centralists.

A central body had to control this organization if it was to be effective and funding was the problem. Finally, these various groups were able to unite for the common goal of defending the Jewish settlers from attack. A committee prepared a scheme for two kinds of taxes: *direct* and *indirect* to support the *Hagannah*. The direct tax was a levy, a percentage imposed upon capital at a very small rate. Taxes were imposed on business, on wages, imports, manufactured goods, etc. Collection was done by public assistance from various economic circles of the country: a committee for manufacturers, for merchants, for teachers, doctors, for small merchants, etc. The indirect tax scheme established a series of taxes on cinema admissions, transport tickets, vegetables, margarine, butter, cigarettes, almost anything, and soon, enough was raised by this indirect tax so that the direct tax scheme was abandoned.



The *Kofer Hayeshuv*, the name given to the group responsible for the funding translates to *Redemption of the Holy Land*. A coin smaller than the 1 mil which was the smallest value in the Mandate coinage was necessary. The tokens were struck in the factory Pliz in Holon. They were sold for the sum printed upon them: 1/2-mil. This denomination helped create the market turnover needed. It is worthy to mention that the British Mandate government did not see anything contrary to their policy in this action of the *Kofer*

Hayeshuv. This 1/2-mil token was made of brass, bearing on one side the inscription *Tuv Kofer Hayeshuf* (1/2 mil), and in the center, the symbol of the organization.

Jews were always ready and happy to spend the 1/2-mil tax for the protection it assured. These coins circulated for a long time, but in the 1950's, the Israel Government started cashing in all the Mandate coins, and they started to disappear. No reserve whatsoever was kept by the *Kofer Hayeshuv*, or by the *Jewish Agency* who took over the Archives and all that remained of this heroic period during which the first steps were made towards the creation of the Jewish State.



A fairly modern series of tokens were issued in Haifa by the *Cafe Werner*. The members of the Werner family emigrated to Israel from Austria in 1934 bringing with them the equipment for the cafe they intended to open, including the tokens. The inscription was added in Haifa after they opened on Herzl Street in 1935. The series consists of 5 denominations from 5 to 50. Some believe these were used as a counting check for waiters in the Cafe. Others say they were used as regular trade tokens.

Both the appearance of the tokens, and the fact that a second series was necessary (in white metal rather than bronze) and the fact that only a small quantity exist today, speaks for the second version. Unverified information puts the total number of sets available from the Werner heirs at 58.

ANGLO-PALESTINE BANK NOTES

by Samuel Lachman, Haifa

The description of the notes of the Anglo-Palestine Bank, as presented by Leo Kadman in *Israel's Money* and subsequently included in Sylvia Haffner's catalog and the Kagan catalog, requires some rectifications and additions.

The Knesset did not exist in 1948, and could therefore not have held an all night session. The General Assembly, the forerunner of the Knesset was elected on 25 January 1949. The issue of the notes was decided upon by the Provisional Government in a session on 16 August 1948, following a suggestion by the Finance Minister of that government, Eliezer Kaplan. The law dated 16 August 1948 was published in the first appendix of the *Israel Government Gazette* No. 15 of 17 August 1948, pp. 33-38.

The notes were issued on 17 August 1948 (and not on 18 August). The Israeli newspaper *Davar*, No. 7026 of 18 August 1948, carried the story, of which the first paragraph is reproduced here (translated from Hebrew):

THE CITIZENS OF ISRAEL ACCEPTED THE INDEPENDENT CURRENCY WITH FULL CONFIDENCE

The new currency of the State of Israel was issued yesterday morning. Banks began at 0900 hours in the morning to change Palestinian pounds against new notes of the Israeli pound. At the Anglo-Palestine Bank (at Tel Aviv - translator), a separate section was opened on the second floor for the exchange of bank-notes. The public accepted the new currency with trust and full confidence. "His Majesty's Government view with favor the establishment in Palestine of a national home for the Jewish people and will use their best endeavors to facilitate the achievement of this object, it being clearly understood that nothing shall be done which may prejudice the civil and religious rights of existing non-Jewish communities in Palestine, or the rights and political status enjoyed by Jews in any other country."

The notes of the Anglo-Palestine Bank of 500 mils, 1, 5 and 10 pounds exist with two serial number varieties. The notes have serial numbers composed of six digits, either with or without a prefix in the form of a Latin





536308

B347180

Notes without prefix are possibly first printing.

character. It is thought that the notes without prefix are the first printing. The 50 pounds notes have serial numbers composed of five digits without prefix. It is pointed out that the specimen notes shown in the catalogs do not represent the serial numbers in the

form they appear on the notes.

The 500 mils note shown here has the prefix, while the 10 pounds note is without prefix.

Future issues of the *Catalog of Israel Money* will have to be changed accordingly.

A FORGED 1960 EIGHT GRAINS AGORA PATTERN

by Eli Semmelman, Haifa

I was recently offered a 1960 eight grains Agora. At first, I was very happy to see an unknown piece of this interesting series, but soon I had the feeling the coin offered was a forgery. The following reasons brought me to this unhappy conclusion:

1) The low price I was asked for it (30,000 Liroth, half the price which the original is usually worth).

2) The coin is larger by at least half a millimeter than the original coin and thinner; the scallops at the edge of the forgery do not match an original coin.

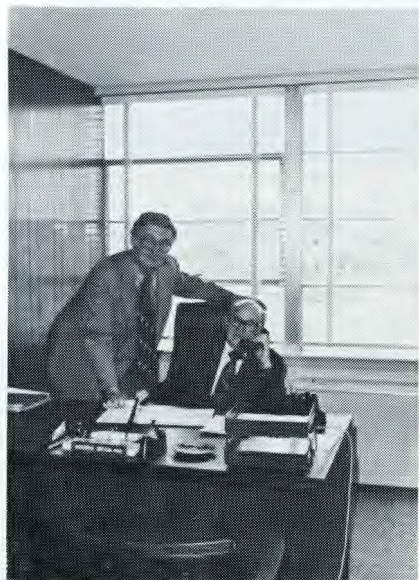
3) The coin is inverted; the original coins are not. The forger surely

read the few lines in the journal *Tachbiv (Hobby)*, Tel Aviv, 1975, in which the editor unknowingly explains the eight grains patterns saying the coin is inverted (which it is of course not; possibly this led the forger to make the coin inverted).

The coin appears to be weakly struck and polished; the Arabic words on the coin are thinner and different than in the original coin. The forgery is possibly a copy of *Kagan IV* or the better specimen, surely handmade.

When offered such a coin, a collector should consult an experienced numismatist before buying it. I asked the seller to let me photograph the coin; he refused.

AINA OPENS NATIONAL OFFICES IN MODERN EXECUTIVE BUILDING



Top: "Shekel" editor George Gilbert and Morris Bram (seated) review plans for the present issue of AINA's quarterly magazine. Standing: Lena Bram and Edina Frankel, administrative aides to Mr. Bram in their work area.

Part and parcel of the growth of the American Israel Numismatic Association has been the expansion from modest facilities at first to a burgeoning operation which finally required a move to fulltime, modern facilities. A three-room suite with all of the facilities for record-keeping and administration of the rapidly growing organization has been established in Queens at 91-31 Queens Blvd. in the Elmhurst section of the Borough of Queens. It is located on the main artery between midtown Manhattan and the airports which serve the Metropolis.

The offices are strictly for administration. Coins and medals are received and handled for shipment at a totally different location under heavy security; nothing of numismatic value is kept on hand in Queens. The office is solely the center for services to members, correspondence, club program organization, conferences for a variety of AINA officers and committee meetings along with similar administrative operations.

An Open House during the summer shortly after furniture had arrived and paint had barely dried was a modest but joyous event which saw officers of many of the New York, New Jersey, Long Island and Connecticut clubs visiting along with the staff of the Israel Government Coins and Medals Corporation from New York City and members of the numismatic press.

Visitors to New York are urged to call before arriving at AINA offices for business or social reasons.



AINA is headquartered on the fifth floor of this brand new mini-skyscraper on busy Queens Blvd. on the route to New York City from the airport.



Brief moments during the summer Open House which celebrated opening of major new modern facilities. In top photo, many members of the IGCAM New York City staff are in the foreground. Bottom: Leaders of New York area clubs and their wives chat during the afternoon festivities to mark the opening of AINA facilities to serve its membership.

AN ERROR IN THE 1963 AGORA PRESENTATION SET?

by Emanuel J. Rubin, M.D.

In *THE SHEKEL*, (Vol. IV, No. 1) M. de Vries of Holland catalogues the known varieties of the 1963 Agora specimen sets. Three basic forms are described, with variation within each form.

A 1963 set containing two ten agorot pieces and lacking a one agora piece was recently exhibited at the *INS of Queens*. It had previously been on exhibit at the 1974 *Greater New York Coin Convention*.

The set, which is not laminated in plastic, has each coin individually wrapped, and each coin is in place between the two cardboard halves. There are no staples, as described by de Vries under the category of 1963 experimental issue. The set contains the 1962 25 agorot piece. All the remaining coins are 1963 specimens. Since all subsequent sets have been covered by a clear plastic material, including de Vries' category "1963 more sophisticated issue," one would have to consider this to be one of the original 200 sets made. The absence of the one agora coin, with substitution of the ten agorot in its place represents an error, in manufacture. This set is probably unique, since a search of the literature has failed to reveal any others.

Of the total production of about two thousand 1963 sets in the black on white format card, this is probably one of the first two hundred experimental sets issued, and surprisingly, contains this most interesting anomaly.





THE ARMY OF NAPOLEON BONAPARTE AT THE SIEGE OF ACCO 1799

Barthélémy and Méry, 'Napoléon en Egypte', 1814.

THE HISTORY OF A FRENCH-ENGLISH BATTLE AT ACRE (ACCO) AND HAIFA

by Samuel Lachman, Haifa

Napoleon Bonaparte left Toulon in May 1798 with a force of 32,000 men and arrived in Alexandria on July 1, 1798. The defending forces were overwhelmed; Cairo surrendered, and all Egypt was subsequently captured. A delay in the advance was caused by the defeat inflicted on the French fleet by Lord Nelson at Aboukir on August 1, 1798.

Napoleon received information that the Turks were assembling a force at Damascus. This influenced his further actions. Suez was captured in December 1798, and preparations for the invasion of Palestine were made. General Kléber was appointed as commander of the invading force of 13,000 men. Al-Arish surrendered on February 7, 1799. The French forces were at Khan Yunis on February 22, and four days later they reached Gaza, which was evacuated by its garrison.

They were at Ashdod on February 28, and Ramle was captured. On March 5, the French laid siege on Jaffa and occupied the town on the following day. A week later, after an epidemic of plague had broken out in the army, the forces advanced northwards towards Acre.

About Sir Sidney Smith

The Pasha of Acre, Ahmad Djezzar (the 'butcher') was the actual ruler of the coastal region of Palestine since 1775. He made preparations for the defence of the town. The British had landed a small artillery unit at Acre in December, 1798, but most of the soldiers died of the plague before the arrival of Napoleon.

Admiral Sir Sidney was born in 1764 in the parish St. Anne's, Westminster. In 1777 he commenced his naval career and advanced rapidly. On



Medal Honors Sir Sidney Smith

May 7, 1783 he was made a post-captain, by commission, and appointed to the *'Nemesis'*, a 28-gun frigate. He entered Swedish service in 1788 and distinguished himself in the *Swedish-Russian War*. He was knighted by Gustavus III (a title which George III recognized—hence the 'Sir'). After a stay with his brother at Istanbul, he was recalled in 1795. He found no transportation, bought a ship, and joined the British squadron at Toulon.

Smith Takes Command

Smith volunteered to burn the English ships that had to be left behind. The French considered this as an act of piracy, as he did not hold an active commission in the British Navy at that time. Duly commissioned after his return, he was captured by the French off Le Havre, and as he was still under accusation of piracy at Toulon, he was imprisoned at the Temple (in Paris). After two years of imprisonment, he escaped with the help of a French royalist, Phéliepeaux.

Lord Spencer gave captain Smith the command of *H.M.S. Tiger*, with 80 guns and he joined the fleet under the command of Lord Nelson. He took Phéliepeaux with him. In early March 1799, he relieved Hood in the command of the squadron off Alexandria, and thus became a commander in his own right. He had just taken over, when he received word, that Bonaparte had occupied Jaffa. He immediately sent the *'Theseus'*, with Phéliepeaux abroad to Acre, to assist

Djezzar Pasha. He followed shortly afterwards and appeared with the *'Tiger'* at Acre in mid-March. It seems, that but for Phéliepeaux's arrival, Djezzar Pasha may have withdrawn from Acre which seemed indefensible. Phéliepeaux who had graduated in 1785 from the *Ecole Militaire de Paris* together with Napoleon, transformed Acre into a strongpoint in a few days.

At the approach of the French, Djezzar evacuated Haifa, which was occupied on March 17, 1799. Napoleon set up his headquarters on Mount Carmel, from where he could see the British naval units off Acre. He at once sent an order to Captain Standerlet, who was to bring the siege artillery from Damiette to Acre, to stay either at Damiette or to stop at Jaffa. However, on March 18, Standerlet entered the Haifa Bay. He did not see Sir Sidney Smith's ships until they were upon him. Six of his transports were captured; three escaped, among them Standerlet's flagship. On the following day the French army took up its position before Acre. Trenches were dug and despite the absence of the siege artillery, Napoleon ordered an attack for 28 March 1799.

A Violent Assault

In the meantime, Sir Sidney Smith landed 800 English Marines to reinforce Djezzar's gun crews. The attack failed. A mine was placed under the large tower, an operation which was completed on March 31. Another assault was ordered for April 1, but almost every man who took part in it was either killed or wounded.

In the first part of April, the French had successes in the northern part of Palestine, including the famous battle of Mount Tabor, events outside the scope of this description. By mid-April replacements for the lost siege artillery arrived in Jaffa. Without waiting for the siege guns to be brought north, Napoleon ordered another assault for April 24, with the explosion of a second mine under the large tower, which only blew off a tower corner. Part of the siege artillery arrived on April 30, in time for an assault ordered for May 1. It ended with panic; a night attack on May 4 also failed. The sixth major attack of May 6 was again repulsed.

On May 7, all the siege artillery was in position and a new attack was launched. Bonaparte ordered a last attack for May 10; it failed. The following day Napoleon decided to retreat. Nonetheless, for four more successive days, May 12 - 15, Bonaparte had Acre, and particularly Djezzar's palace, bombarded. On May 20 the French retreat began.

In order to commemorate the victories achieved by British arms over Napoleon, a series of forty medals was issued in 1820 by the British medallist James Mudie. The medal of Sir Sidney Smith shown is one of these medals. The medal bears on the *obverse* his effigy in naval uniform, and the inscription:

ADMIRAL SIR S SMITH;
below: *MUDIE.D. MILLS.F.*

The *reverse* shows a Lion representing the protector of a defenceless Camel (the symbolical representative of Syria) from the attacks of a Tiger (France). The inscription reads:

*ACRE DEFENDED
BUONAPARTE REPULSED
SYRIA SAVED
XXTH MAY
MDCCLXXXIX*

below: *BRENET. F. MUDIE.D.*
Metal: Bronze. Diameter 41 mm.
Weight 39.92 g.
Over 500 sets of these medals were issued.



Famed painting of Sir Sidney Smith.

FINAL MINTAGE FIGURES FOR 27th INDEPENDENCE DAY COINS

"Final mintage figures for Israel's 27th Independence Day Commemorative Coin, 1975 'State of Israel Bonds', are as follows: Gold Proof 32,275; Silver Proof 41,480; Silver B. U. 52,500," according to an announcement made in Jerusalem by Mr. Yitzhak Avni, Director-General, Israel Government Coins and Medals Corp.

"Maximum mintage was: Gold Proof 51,500; Silver Proof 72,000 and Silver B. U. 98,000. Orders were accepted until and only if postmarked not later than July 10th, 1975. Therefore, all coins exceeding the quantities ordered will be melted and dies will be destroyed publicly by the Bank of Israel," continued Mr. Avni.

The gold coin will be encased in an attractive and newly designed olive wood box. The two silver varieties of this historic coin will be struck in 40 mm. diameter and will weigh 30 grams, an innovation in Israel Numismatics since its inception. Each coin will be accompanied by an illustrated prospectus with full numismatic information, background history and photographs.

CURRENCY NOTES OF JEWISH COMMUNITIES OF RUSSIA (1918-1919)

by David Atsmony, Tel Aviv

The majority of Russia's Jews before World War I were concentrated in the Ukraine. In many cities they constituted a majority and held control over the trade and industry of the areas. In such cities, the '*Kehilla*' (Community) played an important role in managing the public and religious life of its Jews.

After the Bolshevik Revolution of November, 1917, the Ukraine declared its independence and on the 24th December, issued its own currency notes on the face of which appeared in Yiddish the words: '*Hundert Karbowanetz*'. This note was in circulation no longer than a month for at the beginning of February, 1918, the capital of Ukraine - Kiev - was recaptured from the Soviets who held it barely a few weeks.

During the period 1918/1919, as a result of the Civil War, there was a serious shortage of money. Many institutions issued their own currency notes, among them were the Committees of the Jewish *Kehillas* and interestingly enough, among them were readily accepted by non-Jews.

A list of these Jewish *Kehillas* and of the currency notes issued by them:

A. *Dunayevzy - Province of Podol* - issued 4 series of notes, overprinted in Hebrew and in Yiddish as follows: - (1) in Russian, without date (1918) - 50-Kop., 1 rub. (2) In Ukrainian, without date (1918) - 5, 10 Griven. (3) 1919, in Ukrainian with the word "Rada" - 5, 10 Griven. (4) 1919, in Ukrainian, without the word "Rada" - 6, 10, 20 Griven.

B. *Korez - Province of Volyn* - issued 2 series inscribed in Russian

with the addition of the Hebrew date "5679" and a circular rubber stamp in Hebrew Volyn Province. (1) Valid up to 1st July, 1919 - 1, 3, 5, 10 Rub. Valid up to 1st January 1920 - 1, 3, 5, 10, 20, Ruble.

C. *Krementchug - Province of Poltava* - issues a single series. (1) without date (1918) - stamped 50 Kopeck, 1, 3 Ruble.

D. *Nikopol - Province of Ekaterinoslav* - issued one series with rubber stamp in Russia reading "Council of the Russian Kehilla of Nikopol". (1) without date (1918) - 1, 3, 5, 10 Ruble. These notes with the rubber stamp are very rare.

E. *Proskurov - Province of Podol*. (1) 1919 - bill of exchange - 15 ruble.

F. *Shepetovka - Province of Volyn*. (1) without date (1919) - the text is in Hebrew and Ukrainian, the overprint in Hebrew and Ukrainian - 1, 2, 3, 5 ruble. It is interesting to note that the word 'Ruble' appears in Hebrew and Ukrainian.

G. *Bolehov - East Galicia*. At the time of its conquest by the Ukraine, the 'Jewish National Council' issued a series of notes. (1) Without date (1919) - "Valid until 1st May" - 10, 20, 50 Heller. The text was in Yiddish and the overprint in Yiddish, Hebrew and Ukrainian.

Outside of the area of the Ukraine we know the following issues:

A. *Kolyshki - White Russia* - 'Board of the Jewish Kehilla, 1919, receipt for . . . 1, 2, 3, 5, 10 ruble.

B. *Maykop - North Caucasus* - 'Board of the Jewish Kehilla, cheque . . . Without date (1918) - 1, 3, 5 ruble.

Club News



SUMMER AND EARLY FALL WITH THE CLUBS

RICHMOND . . . First of a new group of clubs will be launched during this Fall in this Virginia city. AINA growth plans are being spurred by the interest of subscribers to the IGCAM who seek more information on Israel's numismatics.

LOS ANGELES . . . Tremendous efforts by leaders of the four southern California Israel resulted in one of the largest banquets and enthusiastically attended AINA Days and related events at the recent ANA Convention. Special thanks to Dr. Sol Taylor who was a sparkling dinner MC, reported AINA executives who also attended the ANA in order to have the quarterly Board meeting.

NATIONAL NEWS . . . AINA's grove in Israel on the slopes of the Kennedy Memorial has now topped the 10,000 tree mark, reported Morris Bram who queried JNF officials before addressing a testimonial dinner in New York honoring Moshe Sanbar, head of the Bank of Israel.

CLEVELAND . . . Two gardens of trees for the AINA Forest in Israel was pledged by the INS of Cleveland. A garden is 100 trees; the cost per tree is \$3.00.

CENTRAL JERSEY . . . an auction of numismatica was held in the early summer to benefit the UJA with all items donated by members of the INSCJ. \$12,000 worth of coins were sold, reported the July 1975 Newsletter.

CONNECTICUT . . . Fred Roganson, one of the regulars on *AINA Study Tours to Israel* reported on the past March trip to a meeting of the INS of Conn. An earlier speaker was Dr. F. Don James, President of the Central Conn. State College who spoke on the find and deciphering of the *Dead Sea Scrolls*.

TIDEWATER, VA . . . Frustrated is the word for the INS of Virginia group which arrived for the first summer meeting — with a film scheduled and a projector which just could NOT be made to work. *Gr-rrrrrrr*. Morris Bram and Nahum Hachohen (of IGCAM) are scheduled to speak at the October meeting.

SAN FERNANDO VALLEY . . . This lovely California area was invited to go to Israel . . . with a Super 8mm. Color Film on Israel shown with a narration by Jerry Yahalom. Sally Marx was appointed banquet officer for the planned Jan. 1976 banquet of the Israel Coin Club of San Fernando Valley, Calif.

LONG ISLAND, N. Y. . . . It took two tries by Baruch Gorodish who was finally scheduled for the mid-summer meeting of the INS of Long Island. His subject: *Coins of the Holy Land and Coins of Israel* — all in one talk!

WASHINGTON, D. C. . . . Harold Nussbaum made it all clear for everyone in the Nation's Capitol. He gave a talk on *Alphabets of Coins*, especially Ancient Judaica. Harold reads the ancient script. *Few can say this*. An August dinner was planned for Bish Thompson's Restaurant on a Sunday — with the INS of Wash., D. C. picking up the tab (up to \$6.00) for each paid-up member.

QUEENS, N. Y. . . . An auction was planned to raise \$\$\$\$ for the INS of Queens for Oct. 13, 1975 (*Birthday of the Editor of The Shekel who will send a gift — The Editor*) with a committee made up of I. Mandelbaum, S. Gerner, E. Tesser and R. Lane.

LOS ANGELES . . . Congrats to all there on the *Tenth Anniversary* of the formation of the Israel Coin Club of Los Angeles (formed by 10 persons on June 27, 1965; 8 are still active in the group today!)

ILLINOIS . . . Theft and security problems started the summer season with the robbery of part of the coin collection of Peggy Goldsmith of the INS of Illinois; part has been recovered. One positive note: the group has rented a safety deposit box to hold coins until distribution to members at future meetings.

BROOKLYN, N. Y. . . . *Hommous, tahina, Fasoolyah, shish-kabab and Baklava* were served at the INS of Brooklyn Maccabean Restaurant dinner party in July. Feature of the evening: NO SPEECHES. Hoped-for famed guests at this dinner: Moshe Nov, chief sculptor of Israeli coins and medals and Israel Zedaka, Chief Admin. for Y. Avni of the IGCAM.

NATIONALLY . . . *A great summer for INS members everywhere.*



CHAIM ARLOSOROFF
(Born 1899 — Murdered 1933)
Remembered in Numismatic Art

by Moshe Doron, Ramat-Gan

Chaim Arlosoroff (1899-1933) Zionist leader and writer, born in the Ukraine. As a child he migrated with his parents to Germany. In 1924 he went to Palestine and served as secretary of the *Ha-Poel Ha-tzair* party. In 1930 Arlosoroff was appointed editor of *Ahdut Ha-Avoda*, the monthly journal of Mapai.

In 1931, Arlosoroff devoted himself to aiding the immigration of German Jews to Palestine and to transferring

their property. He was murdered by unknown assailants on the Tel-Aviv seashore, a still unsolved crime. Arlosoroff wrote extensively on financial, economic and sociological subjects related to Zionism and the Jews in Palestine. A medal and a plaque are both from 1933. The medal was struck in Germany from white metal; 12/10 cm. and the plaque was struck by M. G. Tel-Aviv, from brass 62/41 mm. — *Moshe Doron, Ramat-Gan.*



*1933 Medal struck
in Germany.*



*Plaque in brass
is 62 x 41mm.*

HAIFA MUSEUM EXHIBITS ANCIENT JEWISH COINAGE

Jewish coins were shown recently in the Municipal Museum of Ancient Art, Haifa, Israel, covering almost three centuries of ancient coinage, according to Josef Sa'ar, Tel Aviv, Israel, reported *Coin World* recently.

According to descriptions accompanying the coins, Yehochanan Hyrcanus, 135-104 B.C., was the first Jewish ruler to issue coins. These bronze coins from the Maccabean dynasty carried legends reading "Yehochanan the High Priest and the Community of the Jews." Other coins of this dynasty were struck by Alexander (Yehonathan) Yannaeus (103-76 B.C.) and Antigonus Mattathias (40-37 B.C.).

Six rulers of the Herodian dynasty issued coins, including Herod I (37-4 B.C.), Herod Archelaus (4 B.C.-6 A.D.) and Herod Antipas (4 B.C. to 39 A.D.). Other rulers were Herod Philip II (4 B.C.-34 A.D.), King Agrippa I (37-44 A.D.) and Agrippa (50-93 A.D.).

It is noted that Herod Philip II was the first Jewish ruler to place the effigy of a Roman emperor on his coins, and also, a pagan temple.

Coins of King Agrippa I, grandson of Herod I and Miriam, the Hashmonean, followed the Jewish ban on imagery on coins issued for Judaea, but for outlying, pagan districts, coins issued during his rule did bear his portrait.

Of coins issued by Roman procurators of Judaea, from 6 B.C. to 66 A.D. (excepting during the rule of King Agrippa, 37-44 A.D.) only those issued by Pontius Pilatus were offensive to Judaism.

Judaea Capta theme was followed on Roman coins issued by emperors Vespasian, Titus and Domitian, marking the 70 A.D. victory of Rome over Judean armies.

Coins issued during the four years of the Bar-Kochba war (132-135 A.D.) marked the decision of Hadrian to rebuild Jerusalem as a heathen city.

Jewish symbolism found on these coins includes the ethrog and lulab, jug, lyre, trumpets and fruits of the soil, including palm tree and grapes.

JUDAICA POST RESUMES PUBLICATION

Judaica Post, the pioneering publication in Philatelic Judaica and the standard reference in its field, will resume publication this Fall as an expanded journal covering the entire range of Judaica as reflected both numismatically and philatelically, according to an announcement by its publishers, "Holy Land Judaica" of Toronto, Canada.

The bi-monthly, 32 page journal will cover numismatics and philately relating to the B'ble; History of the Jews; the Origins of the Judeo-Christian Civilization; the Jewish Religion; Jewish Institutions; the role of non-Jews in Jewish History; the Land of Israel and the State of Israel among other related subjects. All articles are written by highly qualified researchers and writers, and are fully annotated and illustrated.

Out of Print 13 Years

The original set of *Judaica Post* journals which has been out of print for thirteen years and is widely sought as a collector's item, is being re-issued in book form to be presented as a bonus to those who enter a two year subscription to the Journal.

A team of internationally acclaimed numismatists/philatelists has joined in resuming publication of the *Judaica Post*. Editor of the Journal is Dr. Eli Grad, President and Dean of Faculty of the Hebrew College of Brookline, Massachusetts. Publisher is Mr. A. Ben-David, past President of the World Philatelic Congress of Israel, Holy Land and Judaica Societies.

Subscription information may be obtained from Holy Land Judaica, 3018 Bathurst Street, Toronto, Ontario, Canada, M6B 3B6.

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE (Continued)

August. While out West I was guest of the INS of San Gabriel Valley. I was pleased to find a congenial group and to note all of the fine exhibits on display. On your behalf I pledged AINA's full support and assistance to insure the success of the Holy Land Coin Show scheduled for May 1976.

I have really believed that the highlight moments of the past years were at the enthusiastic and well-attended activities at our AINA Conventions in New York City. After all, with nearby heavily populated states, it is not exceptional to obtain an audience for 150 or 200 people for an educational lecture, or for a workshop forum, or for the Saturday evening banquet where celebrities attract tremendous interest.

I was wrong. My friends in California have proved that an AINA function, as at the recent ANA Convention could attract not 150 or 200; they could bring a mammoth 350 people to a banquet where these highly-motivated collectors of Israel's numismatics PAID to get in. So I am taking my hat off to all of the Californians whose efforts made this year so important for AINA. The leadership of the AINA-affiliated coin clubs have proved their skill in winning such valuable interest from their fellow collectors.

The proof of this was the finest-ever educational workshop which found members of all four California groups where they could get hard answers to hard questions from the unflappable Yitzhak Avni, Director General of the Israel Government Coins and Medals Corporation.

But enough of this looking backwards; let's look ahead. By phone, by letter, by the most important proof of all, with checks, you are showing a tremendous interest in the planned AINA Study Tour to Israel to be held early in March 1976. Lena and I are looking forward to this trip as never before. Why? We've made plans for visits to coin-related sites which no

past tour has been able to schedule. We've got plans for special events which will put you at the same table with some of Israel's most noted numismatic scholars (who speak English) so you'll get first-hand information in Israel's numismatic scene. Once again we'll be in Israel's finest hotels (the deluxe ones); and your total trip price includes ALL MEALS, all buses, all everything. I suggest that you pinch yourself: HARD. Promise yourself that this is the year for YOUR Israel tour adventure. I promise you you'll come home with memories, friends and experiences you can't find anywhere else in the world.

Once again AINA is going to surge ahead with new INS clubs. As you read this, a new INS is in formation in Richmond, Va. Then it only takes the love of numismatics, the enthusiasm for Israel's culture and background as expressed in her coinage . . . and a New INS is born.

Watch for news of an INS Club in your city—in your mail—if you are not now a member of a local INS Club. But don't be shy: If we haven't been able to form the group in your area, write to us to find out WHY. Maybe part of the answer is—YOU.

Shalom,
MORRIS BRAM,
President

THE GOULDEN NOTEBOOK (cont.)

At the base, there is the word "Israel" in Hebrew. Around a circle, the values and the dates 5713-5723/1952-62 in Hebrew and English.

The reverse has at the upper right, within an incused rectangle, with rounded corners, a portrait of Weizmann facing left. The emblem of the State appears in the center, below and to the left. The obverse was designed by Miriam Karoli; the reverse by Andre Lasserre.

The coin was struck in .9166 fine gold with 6,202 of the fifty pound denomination at the government mint in Berne, Switzerland. The hundred pound had a mintage of 6,203 pieces.

ANNOUNCING

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